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THE "ALASKA MINE"

The Name Under Which a Famous and Very Rich "Antigua" Mine in the Moctezuma District is Being Reopened by George F. Woodward,

In the mineral belt of Chirunibabi, in the Moctezuma district of Sonora on Nacozari Creek, about two miles distant from Phelps, Dodge & Co.'s smelter at Nacozari, has been recently rediscovered the famous "Doña Maria" mines, of which Jesuit tradition and Ward's history published in 1824-27 by Ward, an English expert sent from England to report on the mineral wealth of Mexico, makes flattering mention as having been one of the richest properties in the *antigua* days of New Spain. It is now renamed the "Alaska" mine, and is the property of Mr. George F. Woodward of Moctezuma, who has been doing some modern development work, and everywhere in the mine that the work is now being prosecuted, with scientific intelligence and well directed energy, large ore deposits, rich and continuous, are encountered.

In "Ward's History of Old Mines in Mexico," the statement is made that Dona Maria Rodriguez, a very wealthy widow, owned and operated in this region a very rich mine which was named after herself the "Doña Maria," but which was sometime known as the "Huacal." Ward farther states that about the year 1703 she loaded a train of forty mules with gold ingots from her mines and proceeded with them to the City of Mexico, delivering there all that vast treasure, amounting to several millions dollars in value. Then all record of the lady disappeared, but it is supposed she returned to Spain with the proofs of her deposits with the viceroy, the treasure being transported in regular course in one of the royal galleons, and received there her three-fifths, after deduction, of course of the one-fifth due the crown, and another one-fifth due the church; and settled down to a life of ease and dignity in her native land, satisfied with the great fortune she had acquired, and abandoning forever the rich region whence it came. Such are history and tradition piecing out one another in continuous narrative.

That the "Alaska" is the old "Doña Maria" property there is strong and unmistakable evidence in the extensive *antigua* workings, the numerous ruins of *arrastras*, in which the ores were reduced, and the extent and richness of the

ore bodies now being uncovered. This will doubtless prove to be the most valuable property discovered in Mexico in modern times, and is another proof that all the famous rich *antigua* mines of Sonora still retain great values when reopened to depths below which the *antigua* methods could not go, and when worked under modern methods, with modern machinery.

Mr. J. A. Lewandowski, a well known mining engineer and expert, with a world wide experience and reputation, has lately had direction and management of development at the "Alaska," and he expresses great faith upon its being a great and valuable property. He considers it one of the greatest and most valuable he has ever encountered in his world wide experience.

WAYSIDE NOTES

Nacozari and the Huacal and Churunibabi Mining Regions. A Great Mining Country.

Cos, Sonora, Mexico,

October 17, 1903.

It was Sunday afternoon when I left Moctezuma after a very pleasant visit of nearly four days. The distance to Cumpas, seven leagues, was quickly covered, and I reached the place in time for supper. I put up at the house of "Doña Guadalupe." She remembered my alleged tapeworm of three years ago, and, as then, served me with a half dozen fried eggs at each meal.

went into Nacozari at two o'clock. Mr. Lewandowski had come up on the stage, and he had not been obliged to wait very long.

As soon as we ate our lunch we went out to the Alaska mine about two miles away to look over that property, returning at evening, going back the next day and again several days later.

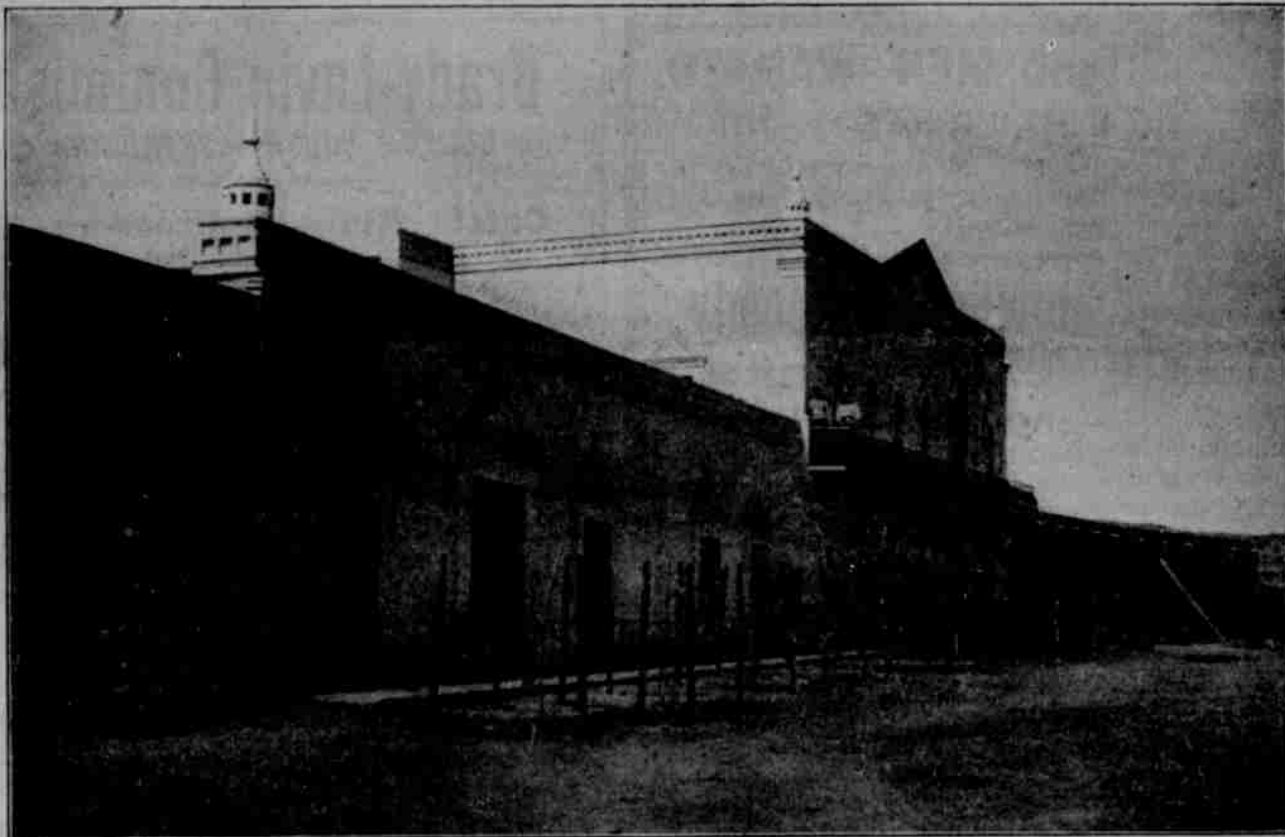
In the evening we meet at Nacozari. Messrs. James E. Townsend of El Paso and George E. Clarke of Bisbee, who had been out into the Huacal region, ten miles away, to examine El Oro Mining Company's property.

Since I was in Nacozari, three years ago, there have been many changes and I found no one I know.

Tuesday we met Mr. Frank Pelton, a mining man well known all over Sonora, who was on his way to Cumpas. Mr. Pelton has recently returned from Chihuahua. He is one of those whom "John Dwyer," the sensational correspondent, reported killed by Indians last spring.

By the way, I met in Bisbee some time ago a newspaper man who assured me he was "John Dwyer." I have not yet made up my mind whether he told the truth, had "hit the pipe," loaded with mescal, or was just a plain ordinary liar.

Tuesday evening Mr. Lewandowski and myself went to Pittsburg, the camp of the



BUILDING OF GEORGE F. WOODWARD, MOCTEZUMA.

Recently THE OASIS editor paid the "Alaska" a professional visit, and gave the property a careful personal examination, occupying several days; and he presents herewith an accurate description, with his own conclusions drawn therefrom:

The Alaska group includes three claims, viz: "Alaska," "Julia Blanca," and "Castillo." The group includes 36 pertencias (about 75 acres). The country rock includes porphyry, syenite and quartzite. The entire region is very mountainous, lofty ridges being cut deeply by cañons whose rocky walls tower to heights of 600 to 800 feet above the depths below. One of these deep gorges cut by Nacozari creek crosses the property, and in its rocky sides may be traced three separate ledges of gold bearing rock. The general trend of these ledges is northeast and south west upon the surface. They vary in width from eighteen inches to six feet. They stand at one angle of 85 degrees—nearly perpendicular. Upon the east side of the cañon. At least 600 feet above the bottom are

THE "ANTIGUA" WORKINGS, whence came the gold of Doña

I called at the store of Mr. E. G. Moore ("George") and learned he was visiting in Nogales.

I had hoped to go out to the "Transvaal" mining camp, about thirty miles westward from Cumpas, where Mr. C. Cloud, formerly of Nogales, is managing a great copper property, now in course of development, and Mr. O. L. Neahr is superintendent. But I was informed that Mr. Neahr was at Guaymas and Mr. Cloud in the east; and Mr. Lewandowski I knew would be awaiting me in Nacozari, so I was obliged to omit that part of my programme.

Monday the ride to Nacozari took six hours. Although the river bottom is cultivated for a long distance above Cumpas but little of it is seen as the road follows the mesa, some distance back. La Noria, the home ranch of the big cattle company controlled by Mr. M. M. Sherman of Kansas City, was the only notable place passed. For a distance of about four leagues into Nacozari the road and river traverse a rocky and picturesque gorge in the Nacozari mountains.

While I had left Cumpas about an hour behind the stage in the morning I overtook it just as it

Sonora Development Co., eight miles east from Nacozari accompanied by Mr. Henry Eisenhart, the assistant superintendent of the property. It was a hard ride over a rough and mountainous country. There were three other gentlemen, Messrs. Thos. Davenport and L. E. Crane, who are working a property near Pittsburg, and M. J. Gould of Nacozari. We got tangled up with a burro train loaded with wood, coming down a steep mountain on a narrow trail. To pass we had all to take the steep mountain side. To do that some had to dismount and force their animals out of the trail. In the mixup Lewandowski lost his mount, which went on down the trail with the burro train. He had to follow nearly half a mile before he could extricate the animal and turn back.

Upon the road we met Mr. Henry Clifford, of St. Davids, near Benson, a gentleman well known all over Southern Arizona, who is in charge of the outside interests of the Moctezuma Copper Company.

Messrs. Davenport, Gould and Crane parted from us on the trail, to go to their own camp, and we reached Pittsburg toward evening.

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